

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4324

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

INFO USCINCSO

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AR, PN

SUBJECT: VISIT OF PANAMANIAN ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER

1. CARLOS OZORES, ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER OF PANAMA ARRIVED IN BUENOS AIRES JANUARY 26. OSTENSIBLY, PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS TO INVITE MRS. PERON TO ATTEND 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONGRESS OF PANAMA IN JUNE. IN TEN-MINUTE AUDIENCE WITH MRS. PERON JANUARY 28 (REPEAT, TEN MINUTES) HE COULD NOT HAVE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO DO MUCH MORE THAN THAT. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAVE EXPRESSED PUZZLEMENT TO US, HOWEVER, AS TO EXACT PURPOSE OF OZORES VISIT. ONE WOULD EXPECT HIM TO BE TRYING TO DRUM UP MORE ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT FOR PANAMA ON CANAL ISSUE, BUT WHY NOW, AND WHY ONLY ARGENTINA? (AT LEAST, WE BELIEVE HE IS VISITING ONLY ARGENTINA. FOREIGN MINISTRY AND PANAMANIAN EMBASSY BOTH PROFESS TO BE UNAWARE THAT ANY OTHER COUNTRY IS INCLUDED ON SCHEDULE.)

2. FOREIGN MINISTER QUIJANO GAVE DINNER FOR OZORES ON JANUARY 27 AND PANAMANIAN EMBASSY HERE RETURNED HONOR FOLLOWING EVENING. AMBASSADOR HILL ATTENDED BOTH DINNERS. OZORES
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WAS CORDIAL AND SPOKE IN FRIENDLIEST TERMS OF AMBASSADOR JORDEN.

3. IN NEWS CONFERENCE JANUARY 29, OZORES DESCRIBED US-PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATIONS ON CANAL AS PROCEEDING IN SATISFACTORY MANNER. FORNMIN TACK WAS DEVOTING HIMSELF EXCLUSIVELY TO THESE NEGOTIATIONS, OZORES SAID, BY WAY OF EXPLANATION AS TO WHY HE IS ACTING AS MINISTER.

4. OZORES ALSO TOLD NEWSMEN THEY SHOULD NOT INTERPRET TORRIJOS TRIP TO CUBA AS REFLECTING RADICALIZATION OF COUNTRY. TORRIJOS HAD ALSO VISITED GOVTS CONSIDERED TO BE RIGHT WING, HE SAID, WITHOUT SPECIFYING WHICH ONES. MOREOVER, THERE WERE A LOT OF ANTI-CASTRO CUBANS LIVING IN PANAMA, HE SAID, WHICH GOP HAD TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT.

5. OZORES TOLD NEWSMEN THAT MPLA MISSION HAD VISITED PANAMA AND THAT GOP NOW PLANS TO RECOGNIZE MPLA AS GOVT OF ANGOLA.

6. IN DISCUSSING PLANS FOR 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONGRESS OF PANAMA, OZORES INDICATED ECON AS WELL AS FORN MINISTERS AND PRESIDENTS WOULD BE INVITED AND THAT ANTI-COLONIAL DECLARATION WOULD BE ISSUED. HE SUGGESTED THAT THIS HAD RELEVANCE FOR MALVINAS AND BRITISH HONDURAS DISPUTES AS WELL AS FOR PANAMA'S WITH US.

7. OZORES DEPARTS EARLY MORNING JANUARY 30.
HILL

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